The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

SEPTEMBER 1994

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

by Willard Hardman

As is to be expected, the National Park Service's (NPS) involvement in the Washington area is very substantial. The NPS is a part of the Department of the Interior. The national headquarters for the National Park Service is located in Washington, DC, at 18th & C Str, NW. The NPS is responsible for the administration of national parks, sites, and monuments throughout the US. It exercises its responsibilities through 10 regions and some separate offices such as the US Park Police. Facilities in the DC area are primarily a part of the National Capital Region, one of the 10 national regions.

First, let's look at a separate agency of the Service, the US Park Police. The US Park Police provide complete law enforcement support for the NPS. The US Park Police is a highly specialized police force, primarily located within the nation's capital. While the most visible elements are the divisions in New York, San Francisco, and of course, the Washington area, the Park Police also maintains elements at each of the 10 NPS region headquarters to provide technical advice, assistance and training to the Park Rangers, whose duties also include law enforcement.

The Park Police was founded, as Park Watchmen, in 1791. In 1882, the unit was given full police powers. In 1919, their title was changed to United States Park Police. The force has about 655 sworn officers plus administrative and support personnel.

In the DC area, it is a full-scale police operation, including special operations, investigative service, aviation section (Eagle), and mounted police. It has police jurisdiction of the multitude of areas administered by the NPS in the immediate DC area. The USPP use the standard 1969 APCO 10-code, as well as a group of location codes. National Park Service Rangers, such as those at the C&O Canal, have the capability of using USPP F1 and/or F2, where they will identify as "Ranger" followed by a number. UHF frequencies appear to be used by selected Park Police officers for informal tactical purposes.

Locations:

Headquarters: 1100 Ohio Dr, SW: Includes administrative services, criminal investigations, special forces branch and patrol branch headquarters. The 600 and 800 series are reserved for units in New York and San Francisco, respectively. Special Forces (Operations) use numbers in the 700's

Central District - 960 Ohio Drive, SW: East Potomac Park and the JFK Center; Units numbered in the 100's

West District - H-2 Stables, Rock Creek Park: Glen Echo and Rock Creek Parks; Rock Creek Station - 1800 Beach Dr, NW; Units numbered in the 300's

East District - 1901 Anacostia Drive, SE: Anacostia area and Greenbelt Park; Units numbered in the 500's

George Washington Memorial Parkway Station - 7300 MacArthur Blvd: GW and Betsy Ross Parkways; Units numbered in the 200's

Baltimore-Washington Parkway Station - 6501 Greenbelt Road: Units numbered in the 400's

Horsemounted Patrol "HMP" - Edgewater Stables, Rock Creek Park

US PARK POLICE Radio Frequencies

166.7250 R	[127.3]	F1: Alternate Dispatch
166.9250 R	[127.3]	F2: Primary Dispatch
167.0750 R	[127.3]	F3: Administrative
166.8500 S	[127.3]	F4: TAC Ops
172.4750 R	[156.7]	F5: Coordination w/Park Service
166.7250 S	[127.3]	F6: Talk-Around
166.9250 S	[127.3]	F7: Talk-Around
167.0750 S	[127.3]	F8: Talk-Around
453.5500 R	[100.0]	P-MARS Mutual Aid
411.7250 R	[127.3]	UF1: Surveillance
411.6250 R	[None]	UF2: Surveillance
411.8250 R	[127.3]	UF3: JFK Center Details
165.9750 I	[127.3]	Input to 166.725 (F1)
165.9250 I	[127.3]	Input to 166.925 (F2)
164.4750 I	[127.3]	Input to 167.075 (F3)

171.6750 I [156.7] Input to 172.475 (F5)
409.5500 I [127.3] Input to 411.625 (UF1)
409.6500 I [None] Input to 411.725 (UF2)
409.7500 I [127.3] Input to 411.825 (UF3)

NPS - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

The National Capital Region of the NPS is charged with the operation and maintenance of the all but innumerable monuments and parks throughout the DC area, including some facilities in Maryland and West Virginia. The NCR is divided into 12 management units. With a few exceptions (Catoctin Mountain Park, Harper's Ferry, Antietam, and the C&O Canal), police (i.e. Ranger) support is provided by the US Park Police, a separate department of the NPS.

The vast majority of the work of the National Capital Region involves maintenance and visitor services, unlike most other regions that perform ranger (i.e. law enforcement) services as well. NCR headquarters is located at 1100 Ohio Dr, SW.

Antietam/Monocacy National Battlefield Park

170.0500 S [141.3] F1: Park Operations
170.0500 R [141.3] F2: Park Operations
169.4000 I [141.3] Input to 170.05

Bases and units identify using three-digit numbers. The battlefield headquarters uses the numbers from the NTIA call sign, while other numbers are assigned by the park to units and bases. This frequency pair, including the CTCSS tone, is a nationwide standard. On occasion, other parks, such as Catoctin, Fort McHenry, Fredericksburg, the C&O Canal, and others may be heard on these frequencies with the same PL.

Catoctin Mountain & Greenbelt Parks, & Balto-Wash Parkway

171.7250 S [141.3] F1: Park Operations
171.7250 R [141.3] F2: Park Operations
172.5250 I [141.3] Input to 171.725 (F2)
411.8750 R UHF Link-Catoctin
417.3750 R UHF Link-Greenbelt

These are widely separated locations, but are administered as one unit. Catoctin Park is also the location of Camp David and has a direct link to that facility. Operations at Greenbelt and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway are primarily maintenance. Greenbelt/BW Pkwy are assigned call signs KFB749 & KFB750. Catoctin Park call signs are KFB715 & KFB718 (Park HQ) and KFB716 & KFB717 at Foxville; with KFB799 located at Round Meadow. BW Parkway base identifies as "Maintenance;" Greenbelt as "base;" and Catoctin (the heaviest user) as "KFB715."

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

166.9500 S [141.3] F1: Operations (Rangers)
166.9500 R [141.3] F2: Operations (Rangers)
168.3000 S [141.3] F3: Link to G. Washington Pkwy
168.3000 R [141.3] F4: Link to G. Washington Pkwy
168.4250 S [141.3] F5: Link to Harper's Ferry Park
168.4250 R [141.3] F6: Link to Harper's Ferry Park
409.0500 R [141.3] UHF Link for Repeater Site
415.0250 R UHF Link for Repeater Site
166.3500 I [141.3] Input to 166.95 (F2)

The C&O Canal extends from Georgetown in DC to Sharpsburg (Park HQ) and beyond to Cumberland & Williamsport along the Potomac River. Portions of the canal have been restored. Although F3-6 are assigned other elements, they are occasionally used by the C&O Canal. The Canal also has the capability to simulcast these frequencies with F2. F2 and F4 are rather regularly simulcast in this manner.

Canal Headquarters uses the numbers of its NTIA call sign (KQC732) as a base identification. The Canal is divided into sectors. Sector units identify by the sector number followed by two digits, e.g., 103; 205, etc.

George Washington/Clara Barton Memorial Parkways

166.9500 S [141.3] F1: C&O Canal
166.9500 R [141.3] F2: C&O Canal
172.4750 S [156.7] F3: Parks Central
172.4750 R [156.7] F4: Parks Central
168.3000 S [141.3] F5: Parkway Maintenance
168.3000 R [141.3] F6: Parkway Maintenance
408.4250 S UHF Repeater Link
169.7750 I [141.3] Input to 168.3 (F6)

The two parkways parallel the Potomac River in the DC area. This unit is also responsible for the maintenance of those parks and trails immediately adjacent to the parkways. Until 1990, the entire system was known only as the GW Parkway, leading to a great deal of confusion. In 1990, the parkway on the Maryland side of the Potomac was renamed for Clara Barton. Call signs are KFB780 & KFB781.

Harper's Ferry National Historical Park

168.4250 S [141.3] F1: Park Operations
168.4250 R [141.3] F2: Park Operations
169.1750 I [141.3] Input to 168.425 (F2)

The park is located in the historic town of the same name in West Virginia. It is propably most famous as the scene of John Brown's raid and attempt to seize the arsenal there. At the time of the raid, West Virginia had not seceded from Virginia. Much of the downtown area is a part of the park and has been restored to its appearance at the time of the War Between the States.

John F. Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts

411.8250 S [127.3] F1: Center Maintenance
411.8250 R [127.3] F2: Center Maintenance
409.7500 I [127.3] Input to 411.825

Although the JFK Center is operated by a private foundation, the property and building belong to the NPS. US Park Police, when providing traffic and other police support to the JFK Center, often operate on this frequency.

National Capital Parks-Central

172.4750 S [156.7] F1: Maintenance Operations
172.4750 R [156.7] F2: Maintenance Operations
172.7500 S [156.7] F3: White House Maint.
171.6750 I [156.7] Input to 172.475 (F2)
495.8125 R [156.7] Tourmobiles (Landmark Services)

Responsible, in general terms, for the maintenance of areas west of the Anacostia River, i.e., downtown DC and Brentwood. F4 in some selected radios may be a direct input to the US Park Police. A great deal of traffic is "car to car". There are several bases in addition to Central.

National Capital Parks-East

168.4250 S [141.3] F1: Maintenance Operations
168.4250 R [141.3] F2: Maintenance Operations
170.1000 I [141.3] Input to 168.425 (F2)

Responsible, in general terms, for areas east of the Anacostia River, i.e., Anacostia, Forts Dupont & Washington, Kenilworth, Oxon Hill, Suitland, etc. HQ is at Fort Washington Park. F3 is apparently not used. F4 in some selected radios may be a direct input to the US Park Police.

National Visitors' Center (Washington, DC)

The former National Visitors Center has been closed. A new visitors' center is operated at the Department of Commerce, but by a private non-profit association connected to the DC government. The NPS maintains an information booth at this location, but appears not to use radios any longer.

Rock Creek Park

172.4750 S [156.7] F1: Park Operations
172.4750 R [156.7] F2: Park Operations
171.6750 I [156.7] Input to 172.475 (F2)

Rock Creek Park follows the creek of that name from downtown DC (Sheridan Circle, NW) north to Kensington-Chevy Chase in Montgomery County, MD. Call signs are KFB726 & KFB761. A great deal of traffic is "car to car". The frequencies are shared with the Central Division.

White House Maintenance (WHS) Unit

172.4750 R [156.7] F1: NPS Central
172.4750 S [156.7] F2: NPS Central
172.7500 R [156.7] F3: WHS Maint Operations
172.7500 S [156.7] F4: WHS Maint Operations
162.5500 S [None] F5: NWS 24-Hr Weather Broadcast (Receive Only)
171.6500 S [156.7] F6: WHS Tourist Operations
411.6750 R [162.2] WHS Liaison Division
168.3500 I [156.7] Input to 172.75 (F3)
406.4750 I [162.2] Input to 411.675

The WHS maintenance unit is responsible for the upkeep of the President's Park and the White House grounds and operation of the tours of the White House. Units identify in the 900s. The WHS (White House) Liaison Division, among other functions, coordinates support for the multitude of ceremonies and special events that take place on the WHS grounds and adjacent areas.

Wolf Trap Farm Park (Vienna, VA)

417.9750 S Park Service Portables

Wolf Trap Farm Park is primarily a semi-open-air performing arts center located near Vienna off Route 7.

OTHER NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ELEMENTS:

All NPS facilities outside the National Capital Region that are located in Virginia and Maryland are a part of Region III, which has its headquarters in Philadelphia. Many of these facilities have changed to the 170.05/169.4 frequency pair or use the older 166.95/166.35 frequency pair.

BALTIMORE FACILITIES KFB756/KFB762

166.9500 S Park Rangers
166.9500 R Park Rangers
166.3500 I Input to 166.95

National Park Service facilities are at several locations in Baltimore and consist of historical sites and monuments. Perhaps the best known is Fort McHenry National Monument (KFB762).

MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK KIE726

163.1250 S [88.5] Park Operations

PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST NATIONAL PARK KFP797

168.4750 S [127.3] F1: Park Operations
168.4750 R [127.3] F2: Park Operations
169.1750 I [127.3] Input to 168.475

US PARK SERVICE, SANDY POINT (Anne Arundel County)

170.0500 R Rangers
169.4000 I Input to 170.05

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DELMARVA UPDATES

Ocean City, Sea Colony Make Changes

More Ocean City agencies continue the transition to the city's trunked system. During July the beach patrol switched to the trunk for primary radio communication. The beach patrol's VHF channels still remain in use on a limited basis. The only agencies to continue primarily to use their original channels are the transit buses (452.65, 118.8 Hz) and sanitation crews (154.025, 146.2 Hz). Thankfully the fire department continues to simulcast its primary talkgroup onto 46.36.

Ocean City police officers now identify by radio number and no longer by beat. Police personnel identify using designations in the 8000 series. With a few exceptions, the designations assigned to the night shift are in the 8000s, the day shift uses 8100s, summer officers identify as 8300s. Police dispatchers, animal control and other miscellaneous personnel use designations in the 8900s.

General Electric continues to tweak the city's trunked system and is reportedly in the process of implementing several new channels (we'll hopefully have all of them verified for a coming newsletter). Some reports of interference, probably from New Jersey, may have prompted the changes. The primary transmit site for the system remains the Ocean Pines tower at State Routes 90 and 589.

The anti-scanner tones appear to have been almost eliminated. One source indicated that the FCC has warned GE that the musical notes, which were played at the end of each transmission as a primitive attempt to complicate efficient scanner monitoring, were unnecessary transmissions (and thus prohibited).

Moving up the coast toward Bethany, Sea Colony, which promotes itself as the largest planned community east of the Mississippi, converted its simplex security frequency, 151.835, to a repeater output. The FCC has traditionally prohibited repeaters on the 151 MHz business band. Either Sea Colony petitioned the FCC for a variance (technically known as an STA), or merely erected the repeater without official consent. The antenna site is reportedly on top of Sea Colony's Dover high-rise condominium, which blasts the repeated signal for miles up and down the coast.

The repeater input remains a mystery (anyone visiting the area, please be on the lookout). During previous seasons, Sea Colony maintenance personnel operated on 151.925, which was known as channel 2. Perhaps 151.925 is now the input and maintenance personnel are elsewhere. The DCS code for both frequencies is 073.

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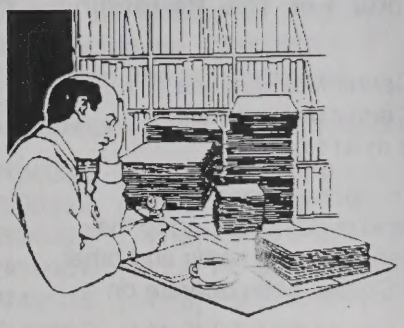
NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker



A CASE OF TOO MANY ENGINES AND NOT ENOUGH AMBULANCES? A July Washingtonian carried an article by Leslie Milk, one of the magazine's editors. "After parking in the garage at 19th and L streets, Northwest," she wrote, Milk encountered a 50-ish woman in the attendant's booth, gasping for breath. Milk comforted the woman, who appeared to be having a heart attack, and told the security guard to call 9-1-1.

A few minutes later, Milk wrote, "A fire engine pulled up to the building. Three firefighters ran up to the booth and told us to move away. 'Where's the ambulance?' I asked. As one of the men started the woman on oxygen, another said that ambulances are in such short supply in the District that they are dispatched only after a fire crew determines there is a real medical emergency. The firefighters had requested an ambulance, but none was available. 'Happens all the time,' he said, 'and it's going to get worse.'"

"The problem, he explained, is that DC barely has enough ambulances for its own residents. On weekdays, when the DC population quadruples with commuters, emergency services are overloaded. Suburbanites, he said, contribute to their local rescue squads and think an ambulance will always be available when they need one, but those suburban squads are useless in DC. It seemed like forever before word came that an ambulance was coming from Children's Hospital, several miles away."

Why does the District typically have a plentiful supply of fire engines available for EMS runs when no ambulances or medic units are available? Has anyone ever heard an ambulance dispatched to a fire call in the district because no engine was available?

FCC AUCTIONS SPECTRUM. "For the first time since it began allocating the airwaves in the 1920s," reads the lead of an Aug. 3 Washington Post article, "the federal government sold pieces of the electronic spectrum to the highest bidder instead of giving them away. The U.S. Treasury raised a hefty $833 million, but the revolutionary part was that politicians actually relinquished power to the marketplace."

"'The wisdom of the auction,' said Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC, 'is that it relies on the wisest people around. That's the business people, not the government.'"

According to the Post, the Treasury should "earn morn than $10 billion from these over the next few years... Ever since the late 1950s, economists such as Nobel Prize winner Ronald Coase have been arguing that it's insane for the FCC to hand out those licenses for free... Auctions also are the most economically efficient way to allocate any scarce resource. The reasoning is that those who value something the most normally will use it the best."

"Instead, for decades," said the Post, "the government gave out free licenses after dubious hearings in which applicants competed to prove who was worthiest. When that slow and complicated system broke down a few years ago, the FCC turned to lotteries."

"Random selection proved just as bad. Dentists, lawyers, and not a few charlatans banded together to form quickie companies to join those lotteries -- 400,000 firms for cellular telephone licenses alone. After paying nothing at all," the Post pointed out, "lottery winners were free to turn around and sell their valuable rights. For example, the RACDG partnership, which won a cellular license for Cape Cod in December 1989, never spent a dime to put its system on the air. Instead, investors sold their windfall 10 months later to Southwestern Bell Corp. for $41.5 million."

"The Commerce Department," the article noted, "has estimated that the government gave away cellular licenses in the 1980s worth $46 billion. And, of course, the FCC earlier bestowed TV and radio rights that amounted to welfare for the rich and powerful -- including Lyndon B. Johnson."

"Finally, in 1991, the Bush administration proposed an auction. The FCC would sell wavelengths that previously had been reserved for the military to private companies and individuals. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), who heads the telecommunications and finance subcommittee, enthusiastically pushed the idea, and the new Clinton administration backed it. In August 1993, Congress passed a bill allowing the sale of spectrum rights."

Among the high bidders, the Post reported, were McCaw Cellular Communications Inc. and Nationwide Wireless Network, a company backed by Microsoft Corp. "Meanwhile, a separate auction raised $217 million from smaller entrepreneurs who bought 594 regional licenses to provide interactive services that will let TV viewers shop, bank, and register their political opinions."

SCANNERS GET BUM RAP. Cellular pirates, says the Aug. 15 issue of Time Magazine, "typically use radio scanners to record the serial number and subscriber identity number that each cellular phone transmits at the start of a call. Then they program the numbers into their own phones, leaving the victim to get the bills."

Aerospace conglomerate TRW, said Time reporter John Greenwald, has developed "a proprietary method for analyzing and storing a third signature of cellular phones -- their unique radio-frequency signal, which cannot be cloned."

Cellular-phone fraud costs the cellular industry about $300 million a year, noted the one-page article. The security breaches which the industry experiences, Greenwald warned, could threaten the growth of a booming $11 billion market which has 17 million US customers and is gaining new ones at the rate of 14,000 per day.

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BOOK REVIEW: MASTER FREQUENCY FILE

Reviewed by Bill Hardman

Master Frequency File, by James E. Tunnell and Robert Kelty, published by TAB Books, Division of McGraw-Hill, Inc., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0850, 532 pp, $29.95.

Master Frequency File is a listing of federal government frequencies, less the Department of Defense, for the entire United States. It might better have been titled "Master Federal Frequency File", or something similar to avoid being misleading.

The book is a great deal more than the usual outdated frequency dumps that you see on the market in this arena. In the first place, as those of us in the Washington, DC area know, it is very difficult to keep up with the very dynamic world of federal radio nets. Some agencies seem to change frequencies and radio systems like the rest of us change socks. To attempt to do this on a national basis, even leaving out the military, is indeed a Herculean task fraught with an abundance of pitfalls.

As a national directory, it is the best I have seen. Not only has an attempt been made to list frequencies for various agencies, but many channel patterns and usage, as well as a large number of CTCSS tones are included. (Unlike many directories, it lists the tones in Hz, rather than the code letters that one has to constantly look up).

Included in the book is an appendix of outline maps, similar to those used by the NWS on its Doppler broadcasts, of the states and their counties. Also included are time conversion charts, world time zones, and formulas for making antennas. The book contains a somewhat misleadingly titled, but very comprehensive, "Master Resource File" of names and addresses of scanner clubs, agencies, publishers, *et. al.*, that might be of interest to scanning hobbyists. Because it is titled the same as the book, however, I anticipated it being a consolidated list of frequencies.

Quite apart from the frequency errors that are inevitable in a book of this genre, the major flaw in the volume is its organization, or lack thereof. I found the table of contents of little use in attempting to locate an agency. While Agriculture (really just the Forest Service), Interior, Justice, and Treasury each have separate chapters, Commerce (including all NOAA weather stations), Transportation

(including the entire US Coast Guard), Veterans Affairs (which erroneously includes Army's Arlington National Cemetery), and the General Services Administration are lumped together in one rather unwieldy chapter.

If you are looking for information dealing with the legislative branch (Congress, Capitol, Capitol Police) or the judicial branch (Supreme Court, et. al.), you will not find it listed, but will find the information tucked away under a nebulous sub-title of "Independent Establishments & Government Corporations" in a list of "Quasi-Official Agencies". Also included as quasi-official agencies are organizations such as GAO, the GPO, and the Library of Congress. In a list of 9 agencies, only one, the Smithsonian, is not an official part of the government. I would note here that several frequencies, and most especially the CTCSS tones, are not those in use by these agencies.

Hidden under a generically titled "Federal Agencies" chapter, is a list of what appears to be agencies in the DC area, with a lower case heading that would lead one to believe it is a part of the previous section dealing with IRAC members. Most of the CTCSS tones listed are in error, and, as so often happens, the DoD White House Communications Agency has been made part of the US Secret Service. Many of the frequencies are in error and/or incomplete. The volume is replete with similar problems.

It is readily evident that the authors are Californians, even if the appendix on earthquakes didn't give it away. The data and information for the west coast is complete, and seemingly accurate, but deteriorates as it moves east. Were I moving to California, I might consider purchasing the book. However, in spite of this volume being a major step forward in national reference works, I cannot recommend its purchase to anyone living east of Nevada.

This month's review book was provided by the publisher, TAB Books. TAB sells several radio-related titles. For more details write: TAB Books/McGraw-Hill Inc., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0850 or call 1-800-233-1128. Views and comments appearing in this review do not necessarily reflect those of CHM or represent an endorsement.

TOUR FEMA'S NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER

Tour Set for Sat. Nov. 19, 1994

Gene Lichtman, who took us for a tour of the District Fire Department's communications center, invites us to tour FEMA's National Emergency Training Center, which includes the National Fire Training Academy, in Emmitsburg, Maryland (just 26 miles north of Frederick). For the exact time and directions contact Gene at 301-649-1321.

OTHER INTERESTING DATES

The College Park Airfair is scheduled for Sept. 17 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is your chance to meet WARW-FM's famous traffic reporter, Walt Starling, who departs daily from College Park. This entertaining event is a must for both aircraft and scanner buffs. Call 301-864-5844 to find out more.

Professional Law Enforcement Services & Equipment will sponsor the annual "Cruiser Competition" during October at its store at 4551 Rhode Island Ave. in Brentwood, Md (exact date and time to be announced). Last year most every major local jurisdiction had a patrol car on display. The IRS, DEA and US Marshals also exhibited several exotic undercover vehicles with disguised antennas! This is an excellent opportunity to get a close-up look at area law enforcement vehicles (including their radios) and to speak with the officers who drive them. Patch collectors are welcome! Call 301-779-6919 for details.

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are $8. Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

CHM Scanner/Shortwave Net

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by John Korman (N3RDC), at 7:30 P.M. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor.

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7 Issues Remaining

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In This Issue:

- US National Park Service...Page 1
- DELMARVA Updates.....Page 4
- Newscan.....Page 4
- Book Review.....Page 5
- FEMA Emerg Tng Center Tour...Page 6
- Other Dates of Note....Page 6